TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

February 2, 2000 LB 510

I wasn't going to speak on this bill, but I do need to explain a couple of things. First of all, I voted to bring this bill out of committee. And I didn't vote on it to bring it out of committee necessarily because I thought it was a good idea. knew it was Ernie's bill and I know that Ernie brings some good legislation to this body once in awhile, and I thought it needed debate, and it's getting debate, and I think that that's good. I'm not sure that I want to vote for it now that I've brought it on the floor, but at the same time, it doesn't hurt to have good discussion and I think it appears to me that we're having First of all, it's difficult to debate with Senator that. She is such a well-respected person in this body that Crosby. some of her words fall on my ears and really tend to make me think that she's at least one person on this floor that knows what they're talking about. I want to ask Senator Chambers a question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Chambers, do you think that the county attorneys as well as the Attorney General ought to be elected on a nonpartisan basis?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Vrtiska, I had responded to a question similar to that that Senator Hilgert asked, and for my part, any office where the law is being administered or enforced should not be acquired based on a person's political affiliation. However, the point that I also made is that this is the only office that I have tried to have filled on a nonpartisan basis. I pointed out that I would not try to carry it to the county level because the county attorney is a prosecutor, not having the broad range of powers and duties of the Attorney General. But because of the nature of that work, it probably would be better served as with the public if it were nonpartisan.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But we're not doing what I want across the board (interruption).

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, I understand. I just wanted to get your